

9 power of a third frequency band above said first and
10 second frequency bands and, if the detected signal
11 power is below a predetermined level, then assigning
12 said second channel to said third frequency band.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the step
2 of interfacing said third communication device
3 includes the step of:

4 monitoring the signal power of a second
5 frequency band above said first frequency band and,
6 if the detected signal power is below a predetermined
7 level, then assigning said third channel to said
8 second frequency band, else monitoring the signal
9 power of a third frequency band above said first and
10 second frequency bands and, if the detected signal
11 power is below a predetermined level, then assigning
12 said third channel to said third frequency band.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the
2 steps of monitoring the signal power of said second
3 and third frequency bands includes the step of
4 integrating and averaging the measured signal power
5 over a predetermined time period.

1 5. In a network connection including a
2 first communication device communicating with said
3 network across a single twisted pair telephone line
4 in the baseband POTS frequency band, a method of
5 deriving additional communication channels over said

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8 coupling a plurality communication devices
9 to said network connection;

12 monitoring the signal quality in a series
13 of predefined frequency bands successively higher
14 than said POTS frequency band and configuring said
15 communication device to communicate with said network
16 across the first said predefined frequency band
17 wherein said signal quality is above a threshold
18 value.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step
2 of configuring said communication device to
3 communicate with said network across the first said
4 predefined frequency band wherein said signal quality
5 is above a threshold value further comprises the step
6 of monitoring the signal quality of said
7 communications with said network and, if the signal
8 quality deteriorates below said threshold, monitoring
9 the signal quality in said remaining predefined
10 frequency bands, and reconfiguring said communication
11 device to communicate with said network across the
12 first said predefined frequency band wherein said
13 signal quality is above a threshold value.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said
2 first communication device and said plurality of

3 communication devices are located at a single
4 customer premises and communicate with said network
5 via a single twisted pair telephone line.

1 8. The method of claim 5 wherein said
2 first communication device is located at a first
3 customer premises and at least one of said plurality
4 of communication devices are located at a second
5 customer premises, said first and second customer
6 premises communicating with said network via the same
7 twisted pair telephone line.

1 9. A communications arrangement between a
2 PSTN and a customer premises connected by a single
3 twisted pair telephone transmission line comprising:

4 a first communication device configured to
5 communicate across said telephone transmission line
6 on a first channel defined by a first frequency band;

7 a second communication device configured to
8 communicate across said telephone transmission line
9 on a second channel; and

10 a third communication device configured to
11 communicate across said telephone transmission line
12 on a third channel, wherein said first, second, and
13 third communication channels each reside in separate
14 predefined frequency bands, said second and third
15 communication channels being assigned a respective
16 frequency band in response to a respective
17 communication request from said communication device
18 by sequentially monitoring the signal quality in each

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19 successively higher frequency band and configuring
20 said communication device to communicate with said
21 network across the first said predefined frequency
22 band wherein said signal quality is above a threshold
23 value..

1 10. The arrangement of claim 9 wherein
2 said first communication device is a telephone and
3 said first frequency band is the baseband POTS
4 frequency band.

1 11. The arrangement of claim 9 wherein
2 said second and third communication devices are
3 configured to communicate across said telephone
4 transmission line using quadrature amplitude
5 modulated digital signals.

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